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Message Text

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15
ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 IO-13 /057 W
---------- 046509
R 190752Z AUG 76
FM AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5189
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L FRANKFURT 6252

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SREF, UR, GW
SUBJ: INFLUX OF RUSSIAN JEWISH REFUGEES TO THE FRANKFURT AREA

1. THE CONSULATE GENERAL HAS LEARNED FROM THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE AND CITY OFFICIALS IN OFFENBACH (A CITY IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO FRANKFURT ON THE SOUTH BANK OF THE MAIN RIVER) THAT AN INVESTIGATION IS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY LOOKING INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH APPROX 1400 JEWISH EMIGRANTS FROM THE USSR HAVE ARRIVED IN OFFENBACH IN THE LAST TWO YEARS. OF THESE MORE THAN 400 HAVE ARRIVED IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS.

2. THE IMMEDIATE CAUSE OF THE INVESTIGATION WERE ARTICLES WHICH APPEARED IN THE ISRAELI NEWSPAPER JEDIOTH ACHRONOT ISSUES OF AUG 4 AND 5, 1976. THE ESSENCE OF THESE PRESS STORIES IS THAT A GROUP OF FORMER ISRAELI RESIDENTS IN VIENNA IS ALLEGEDLY ENGAGED IN ILLEGALLY MOVING SOVIET JEWS ARRIVING IN AUSTRIA FROM THE USSR TO OFFENBACH FOR A FEE OF $1000 TO 2000 PER FAMILY. A FURTHER CAUSE OF CONCERN FOR OFFENBACH CITY OFFICIALS IS THE FACT THAT MOST OF THESE PERSONS CLAIM TO BE OF GERMAN DESCENT AND THEREFORE ELIGIBLE NOT ONLY FOR SUBSTANTIAL SOCIAL WELFARE ASSISTANCE BUT
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ALSO RESETTLEMENT GRANTS. ACCORDING TO OFFENBACH CITY

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OFFICIALS THE COST TO THE CITY IN THE MONTH OF JULY
ALONE WAS DM 160,000.

3. AS FAR AS WE KNOW THE STORY HAS RECEIVED VERY
LITTLE PUBLICITY IN THE FRG ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN
BRIEF ACCOUNTS IN DIE WELT AND THE FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU.
WE ARE TOLD THAT A BALTIMORE SUN REPORTER INTERVIEWED
ONE OF THE OFFENBACH OFFICIALS ON AUG 12 ABOUT THE
MATTER. GERMAN OFFICIALS ARE UNDERSTANDABLY CONCERNED
ABOUT THE SITUATION AND APPREHENSIVE THAT THE AFFAIR
COULD ENCOURAGE LATENT ANTI-SEMITIC SENTIMENTS. LEHMANN

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 19 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
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